

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application:

Listing of Claims:

1-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A method for detecting denial of service attacks on a resource in an electronic system, wherein access to the resource is based on payments in electronic security value units, comprising:

detecting patterns of payments for the resource over a plurality of users in electronic security value units;

comparing the patterns of payments to predetermined patterns of payment; and

indicating a denial of service attack based upon the comparison of the patterns of payments to the predetermined patterns of payment.

22-24. (Canceled)

25. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the comparing comprises determining a difference in the detected patterns of payments and the predetermined patterns of payment.

26. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the detected patterns of payments are payments incoming to the resource.

27. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the detected patterns of payments are detected irrespective of source.

28. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the plurality of users is all users.

29. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the resource is a set of resources.

30. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the resource is associated with a price.

31. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein at least one of the plurality of users is associated with a budget.

32. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the resource is associated with a price and at least one of the plurality of users is associated with a budget.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising deducting the price from a budget of an accessing user of the plurality of users in response to receiving a payment from the accessing user.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, further comprising detecting that a budget is depleted and inhibiting access to the resource by a user associated with the depleted budget.